

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 1 and add new Claims 15-25 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for affecting the growth of *Staphylococcus aureus*, said method comprising the step of:

contacting an environment containing *S. aureus* with a compound selected from the group consisting of hexahydro beta acids, hexahydro beta salts, tetrahydroiso alpha acids, and tetrahydroiso alpha salts, in an amount effective to kill, inhibit, or otherwise control the growth or proliferation of *S. aureus* without preventing the growth of *Lactobacillus*, wherein the compound is placed in contact with the environment as a topical application.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the concentration of the compound is in the range of from about 0.2 ppm to about 25 ppm.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is placed in contact with the *S. aureus* environment using a product comprising of an absorbent material and the compound.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the absorbent material is selected from the group consisting of a natural fiber, a synthetic fiber, a film, a foam, a wood, a pulp, a peat moss, and a superabsorbent polymer.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the product is selected from the group consisting of a tampon, wound dressing, suppository, disposable diaper, and sanitary napkin.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is placed in contact with the *S. aureus* environment using a composition comprising of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and the compound.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the compound is either a douche or a topical ointment.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is placed in contact with the *S. aureus* environment using a barrier contraceptive.

9-11. Cancelled.

12. (Previously amended) A product comprising an absorbent material, and a compound selected from the group consisting of hexahydro beta acids, hexahydro beta salts, tetrahydroiso alpha acids, and tetrahydroiso alpha salts, in an amount effective to kill, inhibit, or otherwise control the growth or proliferation of *S. aureus* without preventing the growth of *Lactobacillus*.

13. (Original) The product of claim 12, wherein the concentration of the compound is in the range of from about 0.2 ppm to about 25 ppm.

14. (Original) The product of claim 12, wherein the absorbent material is selected from the group consisting of a natural fiber, a synthetic fiber, a film, a foam, a wood, a pulp, a peat moss, and a superabsorbent polymer.

15. (New) A method for affecting the growth of *Staphylococcus aureus* in the vaginal area, said method comprising the step of:

contacting the vaginal area with a compound selected from the group consisting of hexahydro beta acids, hexahydro beta salts, tetrahydroiso alpha acids, and tetrahydroiso alpha salts, in an amount effective to kill, inhibit, or otherwise control the growth or proliferation of *S. aureus* without preventing the growth of *Lactobacillus*.

B 2 16. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the concentration of the compound is in the range of from about 0.2 ppm to about 25 ppm.

17. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the compound is placed in contact with the vaginal area using a product comprising of an absorbent material and the compound.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the absorbent material is selected from the group consisting of a natural fiber, a synthetic fiber, a film, a foam, a wood, a pulp, a peat moss, and a superabsorbent polymer.

19. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the product is selected from the group consisting of a tampon, suppository, disposable diaper, and sanitary napkin.

20. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the compound is placed in contact with the vaginal area using a composition comprising of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and the compound.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the compound is either a douche or a topical ointment.

22. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the compound is placed in contact with the vaginal area using a barrier contraceptive.

23. (New) A product for affecting the growth of *Staphylococcus aureus* in the vaginal area, the product comprising an absorbent material, and a compound selected from the group consisting of hexahydro beta acids, hexahydro beta salts, tetrahydroiso alpha acids, and tetrahydroiso alpha salts, in an amount effective to kill, inhibit, or otherwise control the growth or proliferation of *S. aureus* in the vaginal area without preventing the growth of *Lactobacillus*.

24. (New) The product of claim 23, wherein the concentration of the compound is in the range of from about 0.2 ppm to about 25 ppm.

25. (New) The product of claim 23, wherein the absorbent material is selected from the group consisting of a natural fiber, a synthetic fiber, a film, a foam, a wood, a pulp, a peat moss, and a superabsorbent polymer.